

## Claims

I claim:

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1. A method of operating a distributed parallel processing system, comprising:
- providing a server system;
- coupling the server system to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;
- providing an incentive to couple the distributed devices to the server system through the network so that the distributed devices are capable of performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system;
- identifying a workload capability factor for a plurality of the distributed devices; and
- utilizing the identified workload capability factor within the server system.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive is a reward program.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive is a sweepstakes.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the incentive includes a monetary payment.
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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an incentive value for one or more of the plurality of distributed devices based upon the workload completed by the distributed devices.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the incentive value comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an incentive value for one or more of the plurality of distributed devices based upon the workload capabilities of the distributed devices.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the incentive value comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein workload capability factors for the distributed device are determined by a benchmark workload.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the server system schedules and allocates workloads to the distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor determined by the benchmark workload.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor for at least one distributed device is determined by the workload actually performed by the distributed device.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor for at least one distributed device is determined by the capabilities of the distributed device.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the identified workload capability factor is utilized to determine an entry value to a sweepstakes.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the entry value increases for increased capabilities of the distributed device.

5 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload is a site testing workload.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload is an indexing workload.

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10 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the identified workload capability factor is utilized to determine an allocation of workloads among the distributed devices.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the identified workload capability factors are utilized by the server system to schedule workloads among the distributed devices.

15 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internet.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an intranet.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

20 22. The method of claim 1, further comprising transferring an agent from the server system to the distributed devices, the agent being capable of managing the workload.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user of a distributed device.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user about an increase in the incentive for an increase in the workload capability of the distributed device.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to an upgrade for the distributed system.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to a particular manufacturer of an upgrade product.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor includes processor capabilities of the distributed devices.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein the workload capability factor includes a storage capacity capability of the distributed devices.

29. A distributed parallel processing system, comprising:  
a server system coupled to a network, the network being connectable to distributed devices;

a capability database coupled to the server system, the capability database storing workload capability factors the plurality of distributed devices; and an incentive database coupled to the server system, the incentive database storing incentive values for a plurality of the distributed devices, the plurality of distributed devices being capable of performing workloads for the distributed parallel processing system, and the server system utilizing the workload capacity factors to determine the incentive values for the plurality of distributed devices.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive is a sweepstakes.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive includes a monetary payment.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values are based upon the workload completed by the distributed devices.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the incentive values comprises entries in a sweepstakes.

34. The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values are based upon the workload capabilities of the distributed devices.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the incentive values comprise entries in a sweepstakes.

36. The system of claim 29, wherein workload capability factors for the distributed devices are determined by a benchmark workload.

37. The system of claim 36, further comprising a workload database coupled to the server system, the server system allocating workloads to the distributed devices based upon the workload capability factor determined by the benchmark workload.

38. The system of claim 29, wherein the incentive values increase for increased capabilities of the distributed devices.

39. The system of claim 29, wherein the workload comprises a network site testing workload or network site content indexing.

40. The system of claim 29, wherein the workload comprises a bioinformatics workload, a pair-wise comparison workload or a data mining workload.

41. The system of claim 29, wherein the server system utilizes the workload capability factors to determine an allocation of workloads among the distributed devices.

42. The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises an internet.

43. The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises an intranet.

44. The system of claim 29, further comprising an agent coupled to the server system and being capable of being transferred from the server system to the distributed devices, the agent being capable of managing the workload.

5 45. The system of claim 44, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user of a distributed device.

Sub AI 46. The system of claim 45, wherein the agent is further capable of providing information to a user about an increase in the incentive value for an increase in the capability of the distributed system.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to an upgrade for the distributed device.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the incentive increase information is directed to a particular manufacturer of an upgrade product.

49. The system of claim 29, wherein the workload capability factor includes a processor capability of the distributed devices.

50. The system of claim 29, wherein the workload capability factor includes a storage capacity capability of the distributed devices.

51. The system of claim 29, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

52. The system of claim 29, wherein the distributed devices comprise wireless devices.